



# Lemhi County

September 2020

IDAHO  
DEPT. OF LABOR

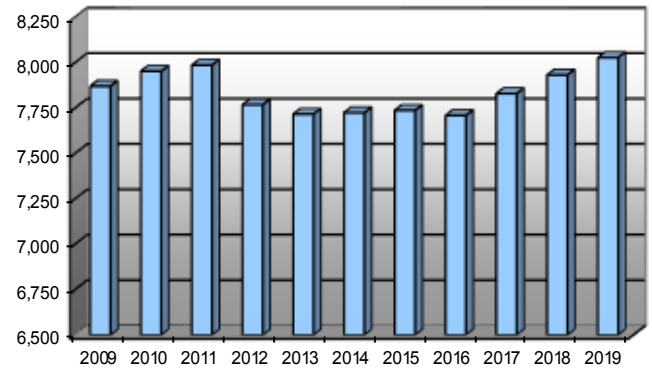
## Workforce Trends

### Population

Lemhi County has depended on mining for most of its history, and the last decade reflects it. The population steadily eroded early in the decade before resuming growth. The county's population was 8 027 people in 2019. Salmon is Lemhi County's largest city ranking 44th in the state with a population of 3,169 people. Recent population fluctuations have been minor but have shown an increase since 2016.

Cobalt and rare earth metals have sparked interest in new mining development. There is still discussion of selling and restarting mines. In the past several years, the county has also built a business incubation center, a large hospital and the impressive Sacajawea Education & Interpretive Center. Efforts to improve local schools are also underway.

Population



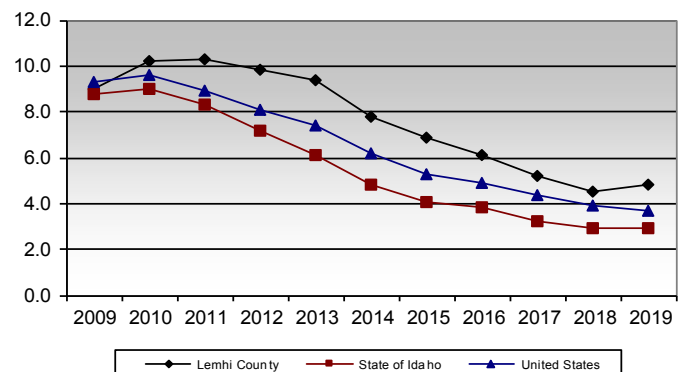
### Labor Force & Employment

Lemhi County's unemployment rate hit 10.3 percent in peak recession times. Since then the county is diversified while capitalizing on its strengths. Summer fires over the last decade, some requiring national help, temporarily boosted employment. But the county has rebounded with the support of residents and leaders. The 2019 average unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.7 percent.

Government employs 34 percent of the county's workers. Over 90 percent of the land is owned by the federal government so land management agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Fish and Game Department employ many. Nonfarm payroll jobs do not include employers involved in agriculture. Total acreage for cattle is almost as high as total acreage for crops.

Trade, transportation and utilities along with leisure and hospitality employ 31 percent of the labor force.

Unemployment Rates



These two groups represent many jobs not only in food stores, restaurants and bars but also in auto dealerships, which serve a large geographic area that includes Montana and Wyoming.

Increased diversification will help limit recessionary effects. Much of the unemployment is the result of layoffs, resulting in declining employment and rising unemployment.

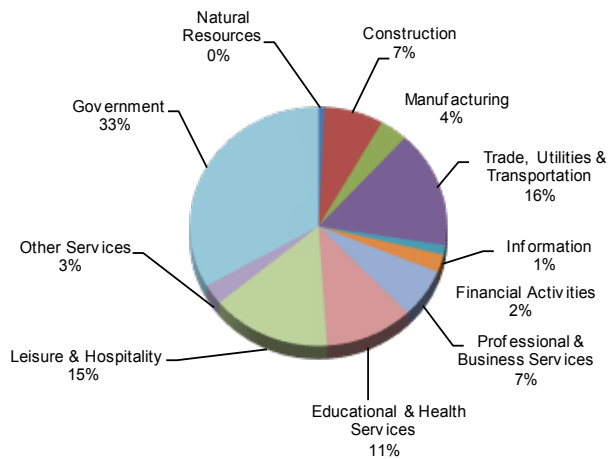
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	3,598	3,736
Total Employment	3,413	3,529
Unemployed	185	207
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	3,976	3,775	3,668	3,569	3,437	3,360	3,377	3,414	3,477	3,508	3,566
Unemployment	358	385	377	351	322	262	232	209	182	159	170
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	10.2	10.3	9.8	9.4	7.8	6.9	6.1	5.2	4.5	4.8
Employment	3,617	3,390	3,291	3,218	3,115	3,098	3,145	3,205	3,295	3,349	3,396

For more Information Contact: Esther Eke, Idaho Department of Labor • 430 N 5th Ave, Pocatello, ID 835205-4087

Phone: (208) 236-6710 ext 4331 • email: [esther.eke@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:esther.eke@labor.idaho.gov) • Labor Market Information website: [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



### Major Employers

Discovery Care Center LLC
Lemhi County
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Q B Corporation
Salmon Public Schools #291
Saveway Market Inc.
Steele Memorial Hospital
U.S. Government

## Covered Employment & Wages

Since 2008 covered employment has decreased 2.4 percent. Job and wage growth was minimal, growing slightly 2.4 percent in 2018. As jobs declined wages increased. Over the last decade overall covered wages grew 30 percent. Construction was the only sector to experience a decrease in wages in 2018, 10 percent as employment remained unchanged.

Covered employment includes jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

Eastern Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Cashiers	\$8.39	\$10.51
Farmworkers & Laborers - Crop	\$9.74	\$11.93
Farmworkers, Farm, & Ranch Animals	\$9.17	\$12.87
Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses	\$16.37	\$19.96
Medical Assistants	\$11.90	\$14.94
Nursing Assistants	\$10.73	\$12.54
Production Occupations	\$10.20	\$17.35
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$10.61	\$13.06
Retail Salespersons	\$8.83	\$13.52
Waiters & Waitresses	\$8.46	\$11.24

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,459	\$26,690	2,515	\$34,562	2,569	\$36,238
Agriculture	26	\$24,798	48	\$28,049	57	\$27,843
Mining	11	\$78,988	39	\$69,341	19	\$130,955
Construction	156	\$28,319	179	\$37,550	187	\$36,745
Manufacturing	85	\$30,143	83	\$34,868	91	\$36,553
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	389	\$22,993	390	\$28,637	395	\$27,850
Information	35	\$15,697	26	\$19,132	33	\$19,684
Financial Activities	78	\$19,465	62	\$28,168	60	\$27,995
Professional and Business Services	199	\$30,771	156	\$45,996	167	\$54,891
Educational and Health Services	251	\$18,447	261	\$30,745	282	\$30,880
Leisure and Hospitality	305	\$11,064	362	\$15,458	377	\$16,080
Other Services	111	\$17,799	71	\$29,953	70	\$30,511
Government	814	\$36,897	837	\$44,070	832	\$47,383

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lemhi County	\$28,598	\$29,459	\$31,338	\$34,467	\$35,228	\$37,065	\$38,807	\$39,193	\$39,790	\$41,565
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis

**IDAHO**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR  
JANI REVIER, DIRECTOR

This county is served by the office listed below:  
Idaho Department of Labor  
1301 Main St., Unit 1  
Salmon, ID 83467 Ph: (208) 756-2234

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this publication are available upon request. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.